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17 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: SB/RR

SUBJECT : Indications of Nationalist Ferment in
the Ukraine

The source of the information given below is a young West European university student who spoke with Ukrainians living in a satellite country when the source visited there in early January 1967.

1. There is a document being circulated in the Ukraine and among Ukrainians in Czechoslovakia which was authored by a fnu CHORNOVIY, who was a witness at the trial in Lvov, in the summer of 1966, of Ukrainian intellectuals who were arrested for "nationalist activities". In the document, CHORNOVIY lodges a protest against the arrests and the abuses against Ukrainian intellectuals by the KGB. The protest was sent to V. SCHERBYTSKY, Chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, and to F. K. HLUKH, Attorney General of the Ukrainian Republic. At the trial in Lvov, CHORNOVIY demanded the services of an interpreter, refusing to reply to questions asked in Russian until they were restated in Ukrainian.

2. Sviatoslav KARAVANSKY, a young Ukrainian writer who was arrested in 1965 for "nationalist activities", and who now is being held in prison camp poselok Yavas P/Y, 385/11, Stantsiya Pot'ma, Mordovskaya ASSR, was released for a short while in the early summer of 1966 prior to his removal from the Ukraine. During the period of his release, he sent a memorandum to the CC CPU, demanding that the Ukrainian Minister of Education, Alla Bondar, be put on trial for denying Soviet Ukrainian citizens their constitutional rights in the field of education. KARAVANSKY charged the Minister with pursuing a policy of deliberate Russification in the Ukraine, and said that among other abuses against Ukrainians, students from Russian schools were being given preference to students from Ukrainian schools in admissions to institutions of higher learning. KARAVANSKY also wrote a letter to communist parties in Western and satellite countries, and sent copies of the memorandum to the embassies of these countries in Moscow. In his memorandum KARAVANSKY criticized the Soviet nationalities policy. He called for a conference of all communist parties to discuss the nationalities problem in the Soviet Union.

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3. ^D Smitro TSMOKALENKO was removed from his post as editor of Radyanska Ukraina, but no reason for his dismissal was given.

4. The outcome for the Congress of Writers of the Ukraine, (the new course of Ukrainization) was prearranged and dictated by the Party and Government higher echelon. Soviet Ukrainians said it was difficult to say how far along the new course things will go, but there is speculation that there will be many reversals. The relaxation was permitted to cover the Party's consternation over recent demonstrations of the rise of nationalist feelings in the Ukraine. Ivan DZYUBA, who figured so prominently in the "nationalist activities" for which Ukrainian intellectuals were arrested in 1965 and sentenced in 1966, was present at the congress of the Union of Writers of the Ukraine, but he was not allowed to speak. About 20 individuals in all were refused permission to speak, and not all that was said at the congress was published.

[Acting Chief, SB/S/CA]

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